

For Immediate Release

**RELEASE
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Royal Navy Submarine Incident Kills Two During Ice Exercise

NORFOLK, Va.— The Royal Navy submarine HMS TIRELESS, participating in the Joint U.S. United Kingdom exercise ICEX 2007 in Arctic waters north of Alaska, experienced an explosion of a self contained oxygen generation candle. Two crewmembers were killed and one injured by the explosion that occurred at approximately 12:20 a.m. (EDT) today 21 March. The injured member of the crew has been transported by an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 to Anchorage for treatment.

“I am deeply saddened at the loss of the crewmembers from the TIRELESS,” said Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, Commander, Submarine Force. “Submariners are brothers at sea and we all feel the loss as if it were our own. We stand by to continue to assist in any way we can.” Exercise and Royal Navy officials have confirmed that the TIRELESS is safe and operational and that a full assessment is being conducted.

TIRELESS, home ported in Plymouth, Devon, has been operating with the USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757), in joint testing on submarine operability and tactical development in Arctic waters. HMS TIRELESS is commanded by Cdr Iain Breckenridge Royal Navy.

The U.S. Navy and Royal Navy Arctic cooperation represents an excellent example of the shared vision and resources the two navies enjoy. Since 1986, every Arctic tactical exercise has involved both U.S. Navy and Royal Navy submarines.

The U.S. Submarine Force conducts exercises in waters around the globe, including the Arctic, in order to guarantee assured access to any ocean in the world. The Submarine Force continues to use the Arctic Ocean as an alternate route for shifting submarines between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. U.S. submarines must continue to train in the Arctic environment to refine and validate procedures and required equipment in support of operational safety.

For more information on Navy submarines, weapons systems and Sailors, visit the Submarine Force web site at: www.sublant.navy.mil or the Royal Navy Submarine website at <http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk/server/show/nav.2442>.

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